(c) if so, whether Government are considering to enact a new law to stop child labour; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Child Labour is a socio economic problem primarily a result of poverty and illiteracy. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, Government is following a sequential approach of initially withdrawing and rehabilitating children working in hazardous occupations and processes. Children are also migrating for work to metropolitan cities from less developed areas of the country. Government is taking various measures for the rescue and rehabilitation of these children.

(b) Adequate provisions exist under the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 to take action against those employing children in hazardous work. State Governments are appropriate authorities for enforcement of the provisions of the Act for the areas in their jurisdiction. During 1997-98 to 2005-06, 38.77 lakhs inspections were carried out in the country resulting in 87359 numbers of prosecutions and 30483 convictions.

(c) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Injustice to contract workers in ONGC

972. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the injustice to contract workers in ONGC, which is one of the biggest PSU in the country; and

(b) whether the Ministry ever monitored the functions of Central Labour Commissioner posted at Mumbai, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Assam with reference to the grievances of regular and contract workers in ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The Government is aware of violations of the provisions of the Contract Labour Act by various PSUs. Necessary remedial action is taken immediately to safeguard the interest of Contract Workers and to prevent the recurrence of such injustices in the future.

(b) The Ministry of Labour & Employment monitors regularly the functioning of its Offices of Chief Labour Commissioners (Central) located all over the country, including Mumbai, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Assam.

Unemployment allowance to unemployed

973. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the report of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) highly educated persons are more unemployed than less educated persons;

(b) whether as per NSSO report half of the population of the country is unemployed;

(c) if so, the measures taken to create more job opportunities; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to pay unemployment allowance to unemployed persons according to their education and if not, the reasons therefor?